*The Chrysalids* CHAPTER QUESTIONS and PRESENTATIONS

**Instructions:**
- Students are assigned by chapter number to answer all of the questions in your assigned section.
- Your prepared answers should be written in point form on paper so it can be shared on the document camera, or completed in Google Docs so that it can be shared on the classroom laptop. You should include quotations and/or page references whenever possible to support your answers.
- You may also make connections to ideas which seem to be continued from earlier parts in the story, or add your own thoughts about how an answer connects to a larger idea or theme in the novel.

This presentation will be evaluated for formative feedback. Refer to the Evaluation sheet for specifics.

**Chapter one**

**Questions**

1. List the main characters introduced to the reader in the first chapter. Provide a brief description of each character.
2. Why did Mary caution David not to tell his dream to anyone?
3. Briefly describe David’s Dream. How is it different from the narrator’s world? How does it help establish the setting of the book?
4. Who was Sophie, and what was her secret?
5. Why did Sophie’s mother try to keep this deformity a secret?
6. What connection between education and experience does David make? Why does it upset him?
7. What special ability do we learn that David has, and what are the circumstances under which the reader learns this? Why does this fact allow David to especially appreciate his promise?

**Chapter two**

**Questions**

1. What is the name of David’s community? Who built it? What position does his family hold because of this?
2. Describe Elias Strom.
3. Describe the impressions you get of David’s father and the home life of David.
4. What is the big sign that hangs facing the main door to David’s house? Explain why this is an example of foreshadowing.
5. How was David’s father “a man of local consequence”? 
6. What are the two books that are left to form the society? What kind of society have they created? How does the characterization of David’s grandfather demonstrate the author’s point about this kind of living?

7. What is an offence?

8. What is a blasphemy?

9. What is a deviation?

10. What was the procedure in the Waknuk district regarding ‘offences’?

11. Explain why it is significant that the people’s fear in society comes more from Nicholson’s Repentances than from the Bible. Remember that Nicholson’s Repentances was written after the Old People disappeared.

12. What are the differences between the livable areas, the Fringes, and the Badlands? Considering the effects of radiation, explain the existence of these three states.

13. Who were the Fringe people? What problems did the Fringe people impose on the people of Waknuk?

14. How were the children frightened into obedience?

15. What evidence is there in Waknuk of an earlier civilization?

16. Who were the Old People and what were they like? What can you extrapolate (guess) about what happened to the Old People, and how is this relevant to our society now?

Chapter Three

Questions

1. What casual remark does David make in his home that alarms his family? What is their reaction, and why is it so extreme?

2. What further impressions do we get of David’s father?

3. Again, we are given a pointed reference to the Old People, and their way of life. What information are we given about the Old People?

4. What is the terrible, but prophetic dream that David has the night after his remark? Explain the symbolism and meaning of the dream. Also, explain how this dream is foreboding (a warning in advance; usually of something evil.)

Chapter Four

Questions

1. Describe Uncle Axel’s appearance and character.

2. Who is Rosalind? What does Uncle Axel find out about David and Rosalind? What is his reaction?

3. What did Uncle Axel make David promise?

4. Why did Axel insist upon the promise and treat the situation so seriously?

5. Why was David so shocked by the appearance of the captured Fringes leader?

6. What was Mr. Storm’s reaction to the Fringes leader?

7. What can you speculate about the prisoner’s identity?

8. What does the reader learn about the location of the story?

9. Describe the situation with the Dakers’ cat.
10. What was Angus Morton’s opinion of Joseph Storm?
11. What was Joseph’s opinion of Angus?
12. What was the most recent cause of their antagonism towards each other?
13. Why did Joseph disapprove of the horses?
14. What action did he take to show his disapproval?
15. What prevented him from doing more than talk?
16. Outline David’s conception of the world as given in this chapter?
17. What book had survived from the age of barbarism?
18. What book had survived from the age preceding barbarism?
19. What is “Tribulation”? What Christian story does it resemble?
20. What connection is made between Tribulation and the climate of Labrador? What do you think had happened?
21. What was the goal of the Waknuk people?
22. Who was to decide the course towards that goal?

Chapter Five

Questions

1. What is the mark or measure of a good season among the Waknuk farmers?
2. What satisfaction did Joseph Storm find in the fact that Angus Morton’s field was condemned?
3. What discovery was made by Alan Erwin? Explain what happened.
4. How was the discovery to affect the Wenders?
5. Why didn’t the Wenders have Sophie’s extra toe cut off when she was a baby?
6. Why does Mrs. Wender refer to David’s father as, “That awful father!”?
7. What does the Wender family decide to do and why? What does David want to do?
8. For what reason did Mr. And Mrs. Wender decline to take David with them?
9. What does David do as his last act to help Sophie?
10. Contrast the differences in which the inspector and David’s father react to David when he returns. What is their common goal?
11. What is the penalty for not reporting a human deviation?
12. “I couldn’t help it, Sophie. I couldn’t help it.” What do David’s words tell us?

Chapter Six

Questions

1. What reaction did David get from Rosalind and the others when he explained his feelings about Sophie’s deviation?
2. Why did they find it difficult to accept his point of view?
3. Describe the two dreams David has in this chapter.
4. Why does he dream again of the “great city by the sea” after all these years?
5. According to the inspector, why does the Devil send Deviations to us?
6. How does the inspector relieve David’s guilty conscience? Is this consistent with the inspector’s position? Is it consistent with his character?
7. Why does David ask Axel what the world outside was like?
8. Why is Axel reluctant to talk about it?
9. Why did Uncle Axel not want David to run away to the Fringes?
10. Why, according to Uncle Axel, did Marther’s report of the lands to the south get Marther into trouble?
11. What was the result of Marther’s report?
12. According to Axel, what are some of the deviations that exist in the lands to the south?
13. Axel denies the existence of any cities to the south because, “We’d have heard of it by this time if there were”. In what way is this answer contradictory?
14. How many people were able to communicate with David the way he and Rosalind could?
15. What major piece of advice does Uncle Axel give to David?
16. In what way was Axel attempting to “educate” David?

Chapter Seven

Questions

1. Who is Petra?
2. Why was Petra’s birth not announced immediately?
3. What earlier incidents in the novel account for the inspector’s intentional delays in approving the child of Mrs. Strorm?
4. What were the inspector’s intentional delays?
5. What request did Harriet make of Mrs. Strorm (Emily) and what was Mrs. Strorm’s reaction?
6. What did Aunt Harriet pray for?
7. Examine Joseph Strorm’s “sermon”. Look at all the negative words and expressions. To whom are these applied?
8. Does Mrs. Strorm indicate that she might be capable of compassion?
9. How many mutant babies has David’s mother actually had, detected and undetected? What is ironic about this?
10. What happens to Aunt Harriet?

Chapter Eight

Questions

1. Account for David’s increasing fear.
2. Why does David pray to God every night, and what does he ask God to do? How might David’s prayer be considered ironic by us?
3. What comforting news does Axel give to David?
4. For what reasons does Axel doubt the accepted view of “Tribulation”?
5. What does Axel mean when he refers to “Tribulation” as “a rust mirror”?
6. Why, according to Axel, were the accepted patterns of the Old People not necessarily the best?
7. What alternative does Axel offer to an imitation of the Old People?
8. How is Axel’s theory in opposition to the society in which he lives?
9. Why would these thoughts be considered “dangerous”?
10. In what two ways did “the group” gain confidence?
11. What in Uncle Axel’s opinion makes a man a man?
12. What are the names of the nine telepaths (ESP Group), including the missing one?
13. How is Michael always at the top of his class, and how are the others able to learn from his school classes?
14. Approximately how old is David at the end of this chapter? Provide proof.
15. What interesting development arouses our interest at the conclusion of this chapter?

Chapter Nine

Questions

1. What indications are there in this chapter that David is almost a grown man?
2. Who is the “new member” in the “group”?
3. How do the others find out?
4. How is she different from the other members?
5. What danger to David and Rosalind did the incident with Petra present?
6. Why was Petra in greater danger than the other members of the group?
7. Why did the group postpone telling Petra of her “special talent”?
8. What did David mean when he said that “[the] stupidest norm was happier,” than he was? Why did he feel this way?
9. What is different now in David’s repetitive dream?
10. Why does the author introduce Old Jacob’s views at this point in the story?
11. Briefly summarize Jacob’s views.
12. What warning does Axel give David?
13. What event does David discover will happen? Why is this event so dangerous for David and the telepaths?

Chapter Ten

Questions

1. Why is the Chrysalid group upset at Anne’s decision to marry? Is Anne’s choice a bad one? Explain. What arguments does the group use against her decision? Is their argument a form of discrimination? Explain.
2. What simile does Michael use to describe marriage to a norm?
3. What is the fear that Uncle Axel and David have?
4. What is Uncle Axel’s suggestion?
5. What happens to Alan Ervin? Who does Anne suspect?
6. What are the obstacles to David’s and Rosalind’s possible marriage?
7. What becomes of Anne?
8. How does Rachel save the group from discovery after Alan’s death?
9. What feeling is the Chrysalid group left with after Anne’s death?
10. What does Michael realize about the members of the group which could be important to their safety later in the novel?
Chapter Eleven

Questions

1. What are the circumstances of Petra’s second distress signal?
2. What is the dangerous result of Petra’s continued distress?
3. Why is it dangerous?
4. Who is Jerome Skinner, and why is he a significant character?
5. What strategy does the group have in case this should happen again?
6. What is important about the “others” that Petra can telepathically communicate with, both in terms of Petra’s ability and the telepaths’ social status?
7. Why does Uncle Axel tell his story about Grouth?
8. How did Uncle Axel find out about Petra?
9. How did Uncle Axel figure out that Alan knew about the telepaths?
10. Who killed Alan and why?
11. What grave strategies do the group decide upon when Uncle Axel warns them of the inquiries being made about them?
12. By this time, what is the relationship between David and Rosalind? How does their families’ feelings for each other affect this relationship?

Chapter Twelve

Questions

1. What event caused the panic at the beginning of chapter twelve?
2. Who was the most prepared to meet this crisis? Give reasons for your answer.
3. How did Rosalind’s mother react to Rosalind’s departure? What does David wonder about his own mother?
4. Why is it appropriate that David, Rosalind, and Petra make their escape on the great horses?
5. What strategy are the thought-shape young adults using to let Rosalind, David, and Petra get away?
6. Explain the two very upsetting crises of this chapter.
7. Why does Rosalind get so upset as David wakes up? How do David and the others reassure her?
8. Why is Waknuk society so badly upset about the Chrysalid group?
9. Why are the people of Waknuk so eager to catch the telepaths, more eager than they would be for other fleeing mutants?
10. Quote the statement made on page 134 which contradicts the philosophy of the society of Waknuk.
11. Petra makes contact with a lady from far away. What are the clues that tell us where she is from? Give at least four examples. What do David and the others learn about this place and how is this relevant to David’s dreams?
12. What “mutation” is there in the Waknuk alphabet?
13. Who else has had a very faint contact with someone from Sealand?
14. What makes Rosalind, David, and Petra press on hurriedly?
15. There is a major turning point in this chapter. Refer to Uncle Axel’s advice to explain this.
Chapter Thirteen

Questions

1. What are the two events which dash any hopes of the runaways not being followed?
2. What is the Sealand woman’s message to David and Rosalind through Petra?
3. What has happened to Sally and Katherine?
4. Why can’t Petra understand why David must kill them if they are captured?
5. How does Sealand contrast to Waknuk?
6. How does this chapter end? What do you suspect has happened?

Chapter Fourteen

Questions

1. What knowledge of Rosalind’s character is presented at the beginning of the chapter?
2. What different version of the Christian religion does David hear from his captor? Specifically, compare and contrast references to the Devil and God to what David was taught. How does this relate to what Uncle Axel said to David about the “true image”?
3. What do the telepaths agree to tell the Fringes people?
4. What do they agree to hide from them?
5. What opinions does the New Zealand woman express about normal people? How do these comments echo the very same problems in the attitudes of the normal people and the fringes people? How does she explain the causes of Tribulation?
6. What do David and Rosalind notice about the appearance of the Fringes people they meet, and how does this compare with what they expected?
7. Who does David meet in the Fringe settlement? What is the story behind this person? Why is this person so hopeful that David’s father is in the search party?
8. What is the Fringe leader’s ruthless intention and why does David try to attack him? What is the leader’s response and how is this somewhat characteristically similar to David’s own father?
**Chapter Fifteen**

**Questions**

1. Whom does David meet? What does he notice about this person, and why is this surprising?
2. What is the relationship between Sophie and the Spider-man? How does Sophie react to the fact that David and Rosalind are in love?
3. Why is it appropriate that Sophie help David now?
4. What is Sophie’s personal concern? Why?
5. Why does the Spider-man want Rosalind over Sophie?
6. Why is the Spider-man not sterile?
7. There is only one member of the Chrysalid group left at home. Who is it? Explain where all the others are.
8. What does Sophie volunteer to do to assist Rosalind and Petra? What does she take with her for the job? What does David notice about this object when Sophie returns?
9. How much time must the captives kill? Why?
10. Why is it planned that Sophie kill Rosalind and Petra’s guards?

**Chapter Sixteen**

**Questions**

1. How do Rosalind and Petra divest themselves of their last connections with Waknuk society?
2. Rosalind and Sophie are both deviations. Which one is the tragic deviation? Why?
3. Quote two similes from the Sealand lady’s description of the Badlands.
4. What is the black glass and where does it come from? What explanation do the people have for its existence?
5. What does Petra’s “behind-think” tell her?
6. What inner conflict is David experiencing as the Waknuk party approaches the camp?
7. What is the Sealand lady’s point of view on this matter, and what instructions does she give?
8. Who are the casualties of the Waknuk-Fringes fight? Describe their injuries.
9. Who is with the normal army? What do David and Rosalind realize this person intends to do, explaining why this normal army is pressing so far into fringe territory? What can the reader confirm has happened to Sally and Katherine based on this realization?
10. What do you think the air craft resembles? Why?
11. Describe the weapon employed by the New Zealand woman.
Chapter Seventeen

Questions

1. How does the Sealand lady free the Chrysalids from their cobwebs?
2. Why is it appropriate that the author has the Waknuk people die by being encased by the stiffening plastic threads?
3. Why is it appropriate that the Chrysalid group is also encased in the plastic threads but then released?
4. Explain how the meeting between Petra and the Sealand lady is an indication of the special quality of life in Sealand?
5. Describe the New Zealand woman’s appearance.
6. After the New Zealand woman explains that she has decided that “…it was worth while…” to come, and mentions the costs of sending the ship, what can the reader extrapolate (guess) about the real reasons for the rescue? Was it altruism, or gain? (Look up the word “altruism”.) Explain your viewpoint.
7. What is the sad news that the Sealand lady has for Michael?
8. What is it that makes going back to Waknuk tolerable for Michael now?
9. How does the New Zealand woman justify what happens to all the Fringes and normal people as she landed? What do you think of her opinion? What observation does she make about the fate of her own race in the distant future? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
10. As they return to New Zealand, what recurring image does David see? What does this tell us about David?
11. What is so special about New Zealand? How is Rosalind’s personality affected? What does the population’s reaction to Petra confirm about Petra’s importance?
12. Why is the simile of Rosalind’s smile appropriate?